



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

February 11, 2025, Board Workshop

Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce, Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Melody A. Bolduc
Mr. Reginald Blount
Ms. Cindy Pearson
Mr. Anthony Ricardo
Mr. Darryl D. Willie
Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. SECONDARY SCHEDULE CHANGE

Scott Schneider, Chief of Schools, presented a PowerPoint presentation on secondary schedule changes (see attached). The discussion included the following:

- The task force is put together based upon the possibility of making a change and who would be best to give input based upon where the district is going.
- Maintaining adequate teacher planning time.
- Middle school research regarding learning.
- Concerns regarding some programs that the district has to offer.
- Reduction of electives that students can have.
- Fewer opportunities to double block schedules.
- Surrounding school districts that offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Programs in a 6 or 7 period schedule.
- There are no school districts that offer the IB or AICE programs the way Duval is currently offering it.
- A question was raised about whether the Duval County Public School (DCPS) staff have examined college admissions, as some parents have expressed dissatisfaction regarding their students' acceptance into certain schools.

- Full-time Equivalent (FTE) dollar amounts.
 - Magnet students are not being accepted into certain colleges at the same rate as students from private schools.
 - Staff will review the data.
- IB and AICE comparison.
- In relation to FTE dollar amounts, students will need to take additional classes. A request was made to bring back the number of students with partial schedules and how this relates to FTE dollars.
- Electives and the effects on numbers in IB programs.
- The number of students in the IB program within the district.
- Zero hours could still generate FTE.
- Flexible scheduling options to prevent additional funds being owed to teachers.
- A reduction in schedules would be a reduction in the number of teachers needed compared to the current scheduling.
- The recommendations from Duval Teachers United (DTU), teachers, and principals have been taken into consideration.
- Final recommendation from the task force.
- Concerns regarding the final recommendations for middle and high schools.
- The district researched what other surrounding districts are doing.
 - Some districts have a study hall at the end of the day, but study halls do not generate FTE.
- Half day schedules do not generate funds, but teachers are staffed for full days.
- A request for a bring back was made to determine whether the district has reviewed the number of students at Paxon, Stanton, and Douglas Anderson that are on half-day schedules.
- The data on the types of diplomas awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year was based on the number of graduating students.
- A bring back was requested for the percentage of students enrolled in the IB program and received an IB diploma.
- Identifying how much money the district will save by making schedule changes.
 - Projected cost savings of \$8 - \$10 million dollars.
- The change has the potential to reduce the number of long-term substitutes, as it will decrease the number of vacancies.
- Financial decisions that must be made.
 - Prior to Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds, middle schools were already on the straight 7 schedule.
- Additional teachers will need to be hired to effectively meet class size.
 - Invest in class size adjustments.
 - Start a budget with a commitment to class size.
 - Could mean additional cuts to central office level positions.
- IB, Advanced Placement (AP), and Career and Technical Education (CTE) certified schools will still have the ability to purchase teachers needed, with funds in their specific budgets.
- A bring back request was made to determine the number of new students enrolling in each high school within the Duval district. This data will help identify which schools are attracting a high number of new FTE students. A request was made for a breakdown of the potential cost savings.
- Reducing the number of credits students can receive then reduces the amount of time scheduled.
- All neighborhoods and communities are different. The ability to be flexible with certain schools.
- Consideration for a carve out for 4 high schools.
 - The need to balance consideration against the other problems that need to be resolved.
- The need to be fiscally responsible but still focus on the product that is being presented.
- The need to make sacrifices as the Superintendent is trying to solve the district's problems all while receiving push back from the Board and the Community.

- Continuity and streamline.
 - Data and results need to be reviewed.
- Literacy scores.
- Highlight the things that are transpiring in our schools.
 - Board Member opportunities to use "For the Record" to highlight things going on in the district.
- Next steps.
 - Provide answers to bring backs during meetings and one-on-one with Board Members.

Appreciation was shared for Chief Schneider and the work that was done on the Secondary Schedule Change presentation.

The meeting was recessed at 10:16 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:27 a.m.

2. ACADEMICS - MID-YEAR DATA REVIEW

Corey Wright, Chief of Accountability, Research and Strategy, Paula Renfro, Chief Academic Officer, and Mr. Schneider presented a presentation to the Board regarding 2024-25 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) Progress Monitoring (PM2) Results (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- Defining the number or percentage of students who take the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The information will be provided later as the test is divided, and there are no students that take the entire test. The test is designed to obtain a sample representation of the district's demographics. Charter schools are included in this assessment.
- Private schools participate in the NAEP, but they do not report.
- All schools do not participate in the assessment.
- The schools/students are chosen by the National School of Statistics.
- Duval started participating in NAEP in 2015.
- What defines an absence?
 - Is there a benefit to advocating for a standardized definition of attendance and absence during the legislative session?
- Though typically the information is not released, a request was made to receive the list of schools that took the NAEP.
 - Schools are selected to mirror the demographics and make-up of the district.
 - School level data is not released because the data cannot inform changes at the school.
 - Students do not receive the full assessment.
- Conversations regarding decisions made at the state level.
- The results from NAEP assessments are used to inform the state.
- George W. Carver and Highlands Estates Elementary schools were highlighted for their high scores with Progress Monitoring.
- Development stages for early readers.
- Windy Hill Elementary and John E. Ford were highlighted for growth in PM2 Star Reading.
- Neptune Beach, Mamie Agnes Jones, Lake Lucina, and Biscayne Elementary Schools were all highlighted for their proficiency gains.
- Northwestern Legends and Abyss Park were highlighted for their mid-year math proficiency.
- Elementary school successes are transcending into middle schools.

- Shoutouts were made for Mayport, Kernan Middle, duPont and Westside Middle for their reading increases.
- Working to gain momentum in Math, shoutouts were given to duPont, Fletcher Middle, Kernan Middle, and Matthew Gilbert.
- Shoutouts were made for Riverside, Sandalwood, Fletcher, and Raines High schools for their proficiency in PM2 Reading.
- Shoutouts were made for Englewood High School for their significant growth in math, Raines High School for significant growth in U.S. History. duPont and Ribault Middle received shoutouts for their significant growth in Civics.
- Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is an adaptive test.
 - Different levels of complexity.
 - Examples of students' work performed.
- Changes in curriculum standards.
- Common assessments for K-12.
 - Test analysis.
 - Common responses.
- How to support teaching and learning.
- Meetings with all principals that are set up in cohorts to find out what is working and what is not working within curriculum and/or support.
- Lessons are aligned with curriculum.
- Math standards progress.
- The need to engage students in past and current learning.
- Visual sets for mathematics.
- Modules for small group instruction.
- Helping students with levels of complexity.
- Science tutoring modules.
 - Common assessments based upon the amount or level of support needed.
- Getting to the heart of the standard for Social Studies.
 - What is being taught?
 - How to provide the resources for the student to become proficient.
- Appreciation was shared for the clear presentation that was shared, and the resources being provided to teachers.
- Teachers' stress as it relates to the adaptive testing.
 - Change of strategy.
 - A recommendation was made to look at Palm Beach's website as they have an explanation of what the adaptive assessment looks like.
- An explanation of what is really going on in the classrooms of DCPS.
 - Teachers do not teach to attest, but they teach to standards.
 - Defined atonomy.
 - Studying the expectations.
 - Resilience and critical thinking.
 - Opportunities to think outside the box.
- Students need to be able to perform academically.
- Concerns regarding academic achievement were shared.
- An inquiry was made regarding the significant drop from 1st -2nd grades in the early learning literacy PM2 data.
 - The need for specific strategies to be identified in the strategic plan.
 - Students progress from Star Early Literacy to Star Reading.
- An inquiry was made as to how the data correlates to the grad rate.

- The Board was asked if they wanted to have a deeper dive into historical trends.
- A student cannot graduate without a concordance score.
- Decide strategically what incremental progress looks like and what the goal will be.
 - Demonstrate solid percentage gains toward the goal.
- An inquiry was made regarding the percentage of students demonstrating competency.
- In some cases, students are tested on information that they have not been exposed to based upon when the test is administered to the student.
- Defining the number on the test that proves proficiency.
 - The meaning of proficiency.
 - Students must reach a particular numerical standard score.
- Appreciation was shared for the reports the Board receives regarding PM reports.
- Accessing and adopting ideas or best practices from other schools or educators.
- Messaging to the public about the different ways of testing.
- Strategic plans for each team.
 - Subgroup data.
- Review of cohort data.
- High mobility rates.
- A request was made to see the data around high mobility rates.
- How do you interact with the data to move students forward?
- How to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make jobs easier.

Appreciation was shared for this presentation.

3. PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

Terrence Wright, Director, Purchasing Services, shared a PowerPoint Presentation with the Board Members regarding purchasing services (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- Following all board policies, procedures, and Florida Statutes.
- Major responsibilities of the department.
- Things required based upon the purchase amount.
- Demand Star use.
- The Board received clarification on the Purchase Report that is included in the monthly regular board meeting agenda.
- Delegated authority language included within contracts.
- Government entities and the bid process.
- The amount of the purchase requisition (PR) will determine the procurement method to be used.
- System notifications in SAP that assist with PR processing.
- Record retention.
- Website updated with pertinent information.
- Safeguarding the district.
- Deeper dive into the purchasing department.
 - Policy around the process.
 - A request was made for the next presentation to include the best practices.
 - Contract renewals.
 - Canceling or terminating agreements.
- A bring back request for lapse in payments to contractors.
 - Process from start to finish. This process includes Accounts Payable (AP).

- Suggested conversation with legal counsel.

4. GOVERNANCE

The following was discussed:

- The new attorney for the Office of General Counsel (OGC), Taylor Phillips, was introduced to the Board.
- A request for the items included in agenda changes to be emailed to the Board Members. Any changes made prior to publishing will be emailed by the Chief of Staff. A request was made for board members to receive from the Board Office Staff snapshots of any changes made after the publishing of the agenda.
- Report of travel to Tallahassee, FL.
 - Communication with Bill sponsor regarding school start times.
 - Expanding access to Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Bill.
 - Senate Bill 140 and House Bill 123.
 - Parent volunteer level 2 screening clarification.
 - Data related to Family Empowerment Scholarships.
 - Student safety.
 - Mobile CTE unit.
- Johns Hopkins Institute for Educational Policy.
- Getting back to pre-covid levels.
 - Strategic Planning.
 - Knowledge Building.
 - Customizable teacher survey.
- A request by Dr. Bernier was made to Vice-Chairman Carney for the Louisiana data to be requested.
- Dr. Bernier made a request to the Board for direction regarding strategic planning.
 - Past practices regarding strategic planning were shared.
 - Deciding which vendor will be used.
 - Suggestions were made to move forward.
 - Additional conversations are needed.
 - The difference between governance and strategic planning was shared with the Board.
 - The will of the Board for strategic planning.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Cindy Pearson

Second: Darryl D. Willie

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Cindy Pearson
Darryl D. Willie
Melody A. Bolduc
April A. Carney
Anthony Ricardo
Reginald Blount
Charlotte D. Joyce

Nay:
None

MA

Superintendent

Chairman